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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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OCI-1530/64
22 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission S194A,
Flown 15 April 1964

1. This mission provides mostly repetitive coverage of targets in Laos and North Vietnam.

North Vietnam

2. Only four airfields, were reported in the immediate photo intelligence report (IPIR), including Vinh and Dien Bien Phu. There was no change from previous coverage at any of the airfields.

3. Fifteen military installations were photographed; there was no change from previous coverage at eight of these. We previously reported a four position anti-aircraft artillery site at the Van Yen complex, sixty miles west of Hanoi (). It now appears that this is a radar site. The Vinh complex consists of six areas with approximately 605 buildings (barracks, administration and support type) and an 8-gun AAA position. Two small vessels were photographed in the Vinh/Ben Thuy port.

4. Most of the road activity photographed was on Route 7. A forty-one vehicle convoy was headed northwest into Laos just a few miles from the border. At least eight other vehicles were parked at small camps along Route 7 near the border. A considerable number of other small camps are interspersed all along Route 7 in addition to the major installations at Phu Van and Muong Sen. A search of portions of Route 1 and Route 12 failed to turn up any noteworthy activity.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

- 2 -

Laos

5. Ten airfields were photographed. Seven show no change from previous coverage, one is apparently abandoned, and two are in areas of FAR control. No construction is evident at the airfield at Ban Houei Sai. As previously, the only aircraft photographed were at FAR or Neutralist fields.

25X1C 6. The most interesting of the ten military installations photographed was a suspect area near Botene, on the Laos-China border. There are three installations: an outpost with 7 huts where 2 trucks were visible; an old fort, probably built by the French, with 6 buildings; and an adjacent camp with 27 buildings.

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Although this area is a natural corridor for entry into Laos, we have not been able to confirm this report. The rest of the military installations covered show no change from previous photography.

7. No traffic was sighted on the portions of several major routes that were photographed. Most of the roads and bridges appear serviceable.

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CAS Division